

Coursera Capstone - The Battles of Neighborhoods

Recommendation on the Toronto neighborhoods of choice for ACME Grocery Inc.



1.0 Introduction:

Toronto is a well-developed capital city of Canada, with lots of business opportunities and business friendly environment, it has no issue in attracting many different players into the market. However, that also means the market is highly competitive and as a well-developed city, the cost of doing business is also one of the highest in the country. And thus, any new business venture or expansion in the country needs to be reviewed carefully and strategically targeted so that the return on investment will be sustainably reasonable and more importantly the investment can be considerably less riskier.

1.1 Problem Description:

This is clearly a problem that a grocery retailer (i.e. ACME Grocery) needs to review and resolve as part of their new business venture in the country. As a startup though well-funded, they need to choose their first starting location in the country carefully for the points highlighted above and more importantly, if this is successful, the location should allow them to replicate the same success fairly quickly; so, first mover advantage is critical for this business and thereby the choice of location (i.e. neighborhood) is also important to them.

1.2 Target Audience:

To solve this problem, data scientist team led by myself has been engaged by ABC Grocery. The objective is to locate and recommend to the management which region of the neighborhoods in Toronto will be the best choice to start off their first grocery offering including online capability and delivery services. The management also expects to understand the rationale of the recommendations in the final report.

1.3 Success Criteria:

The success criteria of this project will be a good recommendation of the neighborhoods choice to the management of ABC Grocery based on 2 key factors; lack of grocery stores available (less competition)

and higher number of residences presented (higher demand) and it should allow easy replication of the business model (similarities among the neighborhoods).

2.0 Data Description:

As we need to explore, segment, and cluster the neighborhoods in the city of Toronto, the Toronto neighborhoods data is key for this project. Unfortunately, the data is for the Toronto neighborhood data is not widely available on the Internet in the structured format, hence we need to scrap it through an existing Wikipedia page exists that has all the information we need to explore and cluster the neighborhoods in Toronto. The data should contain the coordinates for each of the neighborhood in Toronto that will help us to further obtaining more information critical for this project. We will also like to obtain the key information like below; such as number of residences information for each neighborhood which is one of the key factors for the neighborhood of choice in the final report. The data needs to be clean up and eventually in a structured format like the example below.

1. Neighborhood Name
2. Neighborhood Latitude
3. Neighborhood Longitude
4. Number of residences in each neighborhood.

	Neighbourhood	Population	Land Area	Density	Population %	Income	Commuting	2nd Language	2nd Language %	Latitude	Longitude
1	Agincourt	44577	12.45	3580	4.6	25,750	11.1	Cantonese (19.3%)	19.3% Cantonese	43.788	-79.2839
2	Alderwood	11656	4.94	2360	-4.0	35,239	8.8	Polish (6.2%)	06.2% Polish	43.6035	-79.5464
3	Alexandra Park	4355	0.32	13,609	0.0	19,687	13.8	Cantonese (17.9%)	17.9% Cantonese	43.6498	-79.4015
4	Allenby	2513	0.58	4333	-1.0	245,592	5.2	Russian (1.4%)	01.4% Russian	43.7077	-79.4127
5	Amesbury	17318	3.51	4,934	1.1	27,546	16.4	Spanish (6.1%)	06.1% Spanish	43.7011	-79.481
6	Armour Heights	4384	2.29	1914	2.0	116,651	10.8	Russian (9.4%)	09.4% Russian	43.7454	-79.4226
7	Banbury	6641	2.72	2442	5.0	92,319	6.1	Unspecified Chinese (5.1%)	05.1% Unspecified Chinese	43.7491	-79.3664
8	Bathurst Manor	14945	4.69	3187	12.3	34,169	13.4	Russian (9.5%)	09.5% Russian	43.7627	-79.4563
9	Bay Street Corridor	4787	0.11	43,518	3.0	40,598	17.1	Mandarin (9.6%)	09.6% Mandarin	43.6567	-79.3835
10	Bayview Village	12280	4.14	2,966	41.6	46,752	14.4	Cantonese (8.4%)	08.4% Cantonese	43.7782	-79.3828

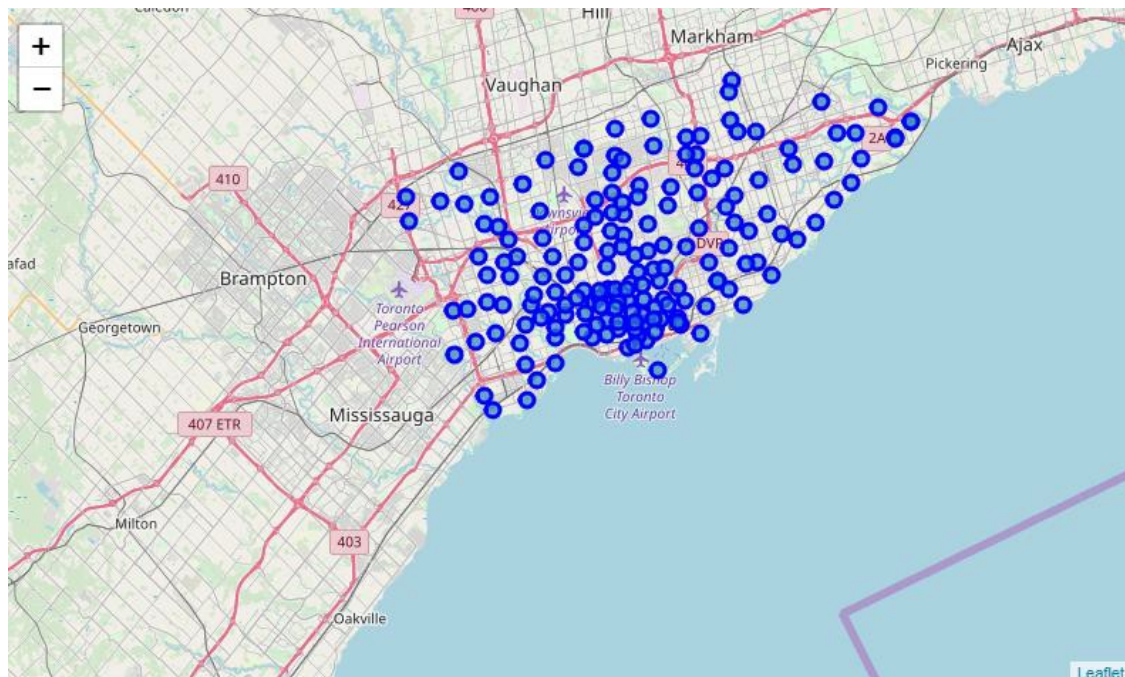
2.1 Data Features:

We will be leveraging on features in a reliable location information provider such as the Foursquare.com to explore the various types of venues and its categories available in each neighborhood. We will also need to understand the type of these venues nearby (i.e. within 500M) in each of the respective neighborhood. The information obtained per neighborhood will be as such like below and has to be in a structured format so to allow for further computation:

1. Neighborhood
2. Neighborhood Latitude
3. Neighborhood Longitude
4. Venue Name
5. Venue Category
6. Venue Latitude
7. Venue Longitude

	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood Latitude	Neighbourhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
0	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Mon K Patisserie	43.696949	-79.329343	Bakery
1	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Knuckle Sandwich	43.696193	-79.328621	Sandwich Place
2	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Little Coxwell Restaurant	43.696180	-79.328958	Thai Restaurant
3	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Lickadee Split	43.696096	-79.328721	Ice Cream Shop
4	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	LCBO	43.696728	-79.328875	Liquor Store
5	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Starbucks	43.695985	-79.328991	Coffee Shop
6	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Remarks Bar & Grill	43.696726	-79.329219	Pub
7	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Pizza Hut	43.696383	-79.328778	Pizza Place
8	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Kouzina	43.697407	-79.329175	Greek Restaurant
9	Old East York	43.696405	-79.329656	Mr. Sub	43.697515	-79.329555	Sandwich Place

3.0 Methodology



Data scrapping from the Wikipedia page that contains the up-to-date population statistics of Toronto neighborhoods has been used. This is critical to understand the population of each Toronto neighborhood which is one of the key elements in the neighborhood of choice in this project.

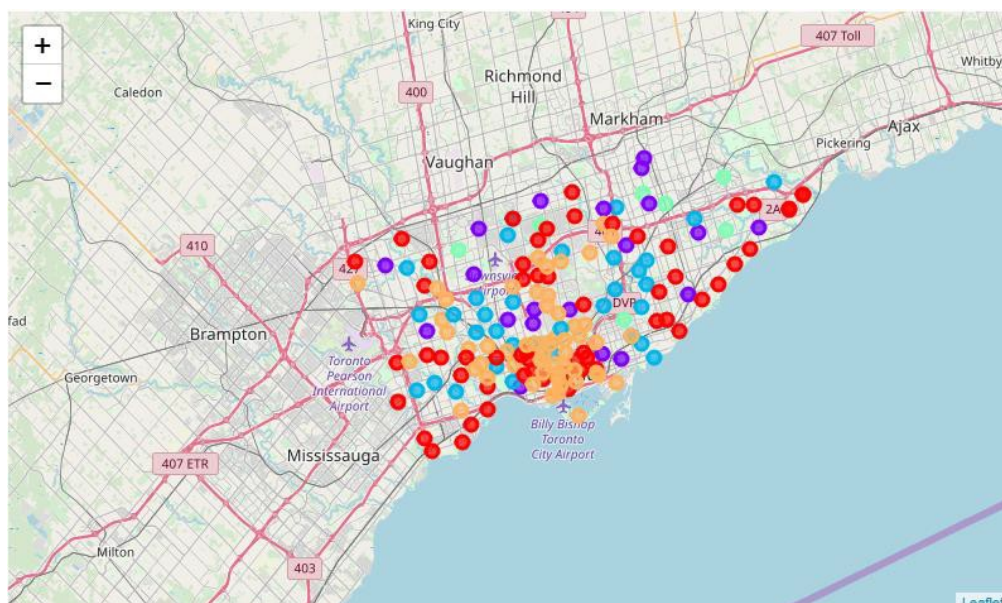
Furthermore, we need to know the coordinates and locations of this neighborhoods, and therefore the geocoder API has been used for achieving this objective. This is important so that we can input this information into the location information provider such as Foursquare.com to obtain venue information in these neighborhoods, and this is precisely what we have done for it in this project.

We will also use machine learnings techniques such as the K-Means to segment and cluster these neighborhoods so that we can group them together to understand their similarities. This is critical as we need to recommend to the management the regions of the neighborhoods of the choice in our recommendation so that ACME Grocery can easily replicate their business model across multiple neighborhoods of similarities easily and quickly as part of their business growth plan.

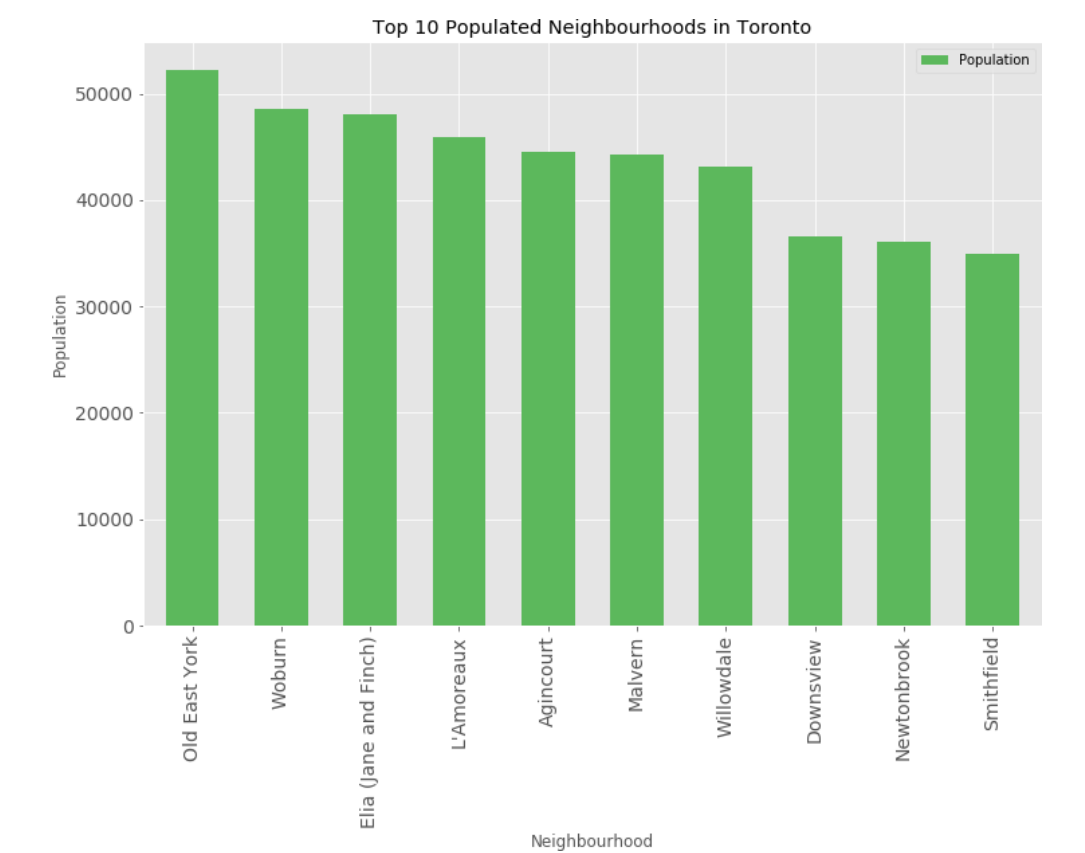
Finally, with all these methodologies, we will then be able to come up with a best recommendation to the management of ACME Grocery to their problem which is where is the best regions of neighborhoods for them to first start off to offer their services based on neighborhoods similarities, high population and low competition (i.e. fewer grocery stores). In other words, we will not want to recommend to the management to enter a neighborhood whereby there is already a high concentration of grocery stores available and lower demand in the neighborhood.

4.0 Result

With K-Means clustering technique, the top 5 clusters of similar neighborhoods have been apparent in the result, see below. These clusters are group together based on the similar nearby venues in each of the neighborhoods. This information is critical so that we can target on the cluster that offer the largest business expansion and growth opportunity as the management of ACME Grocery is interested to replicate their business model fairly quickly upon success in their first service offering in the selected neighborhood.



With bar chart visualization technique, we can easily tell what are the top population (i.e. higher number of residences) in the neighborhood cluster. This is also critical as we will like to recommend to the management of ACME Grocery of the neighborhood with the higher number of population so that there will be a higher demand for their service offering. The top 10 neighborhoods with highest number of populations are as follows.



With Foursquare.com API, we are also able to leverage on the data to find out the top common nearby venues and their categories in each of these neighborhoods. This is critical as we want to recommend a neighborhood whereby the supply is low (lower competition). As shown below, these neighborhoods have fewer grocery choices available giving ACME Grocery a higher advantage and chance to succeed upon entry.

	Neighbourhood	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue
0	Agincourt	Coffee Shop	Yoga Studio	Fast Food Restaurant	Empanada Restaurant	Ethiopian Restaurant	Event Space	Exhibit	Falafel Restaurant
1	Alderwood	Pizza Place	Gym	Dance Studio	Pub	Coffee Shop	Donut Shop	Bank	Convenience Store
2	Alexandra Park	Bar	Café	Vegetarian / Vegan Restaurant	Restaurant	Coffee Shop	French Restaurant	Dessert Shop	Yoga Studio
3	Allenby	Coffee Shop	Sushi Restaurant	Gym	Italian Restaurant	Café	Fruit & Vegetable Store	Liquor Store	Gastropub
4	Amesbury	Bakery	Fast Food Restaurant	Park	Sandwich Place	Flea Market	Fish Market	Fish & Chips Shop	Filipino Restaurant

5.0 Discussion

Based on the result above, the *first* cluster (i.e. 0) looks to offer a higher number of similar neighborhoods and allow ACME Grocery to replicate their business offering quickly (due to the similarities in these neighborhoods) as part of their growth plan.

Within the *first* cluster, we will like to recommend a neighborhood with higher demand and lower supply to give ACME Grocery a higher advantage and chance to succeed upon their first service offering. Hence, with this in mind, it is apparent that neighborhood *Humbermede* looks to be the choice as it is the highest populated (i.e. 14,778) and very few Grocery stores in the neighborhood (i.e. close to none for the first few most common venues in this neighborhood).

	Neighbourhood	Population	Income	Commuting	2nd Language	2nd Language %	Latitude	Longitude	Population Score	Venue Score	Total Score
60	Humbermede	14778	24,297	11.8	Punjabi (9.7%)	09.7% Punjabi	43.7421	-79.5407	0.611729	0.0	0.305865
61	St. James Town	14666	22,341	27.4	Filipino (8.1%)	08.1% Filipino	43.6709	-79.3733	0.607093	0.0	0.303547
62	Cliffcrest	14531	38,182	12.5	Tamil (1.5%)	01.5% Tamil	43.7249	-79.2263	0.601505	0.0	0.300752
63	Humber Valley Village	14453	80,618	12.0	Ukrainian (3.9%)	03.9% Ukrainian	43.6671	-79.528	0.598276	1.0	0.799138
64	Harbourfront / CityPlace	14368	69,232	16.0	Unspecified Chinese (2.4%)	02.4% Unspecified Chinese	43.6416	-79.3902	0.594758	0.6	0.597379

It is also apparent that there is a high number of *Punjabi* people in that neighborhood and hence, we will also like to encourage the management of ACME Grocery to offer Punjabi food or related supplies in their service offerings in that neighborhood.

6.0 Conclusion

With that, we have concluded that the best recommendation for ACME Grocery to first offer their services in Toronto will be neighborhood *Humbermede* with the key factors to consider such as higher demand, lower competition, easy replication for business expansion. See the recommendation summary below.

1. Region: First Cluster.
2. Neighborhood: Humbermede
3. Additional Offering: Punjabi food or related supplies.

It is also recommended to the management of ACME Grocery to re-run this data science program to get the updated result and use the result into consideration as part of the business growth plan in selecting the next neighborhood to offer their services. This is critical not only to make sure that they got the updated result for better decision making, but also to make sure that they can re-validate the findings from this project. Finally, thank you for the opportunity in this project and we wish you the best success in your business.